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***April 2014 Edition
Plus: A Report on OzarkCon***

April Meeting Minutes

Chuck Stroud, KA8HDE, called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. 22 were in attendance.

Old Business:

- March's meeting minutes were approved.
- Paul Bushouse, N0TYE, reviewed the club finances. Currently there is about \$1000 in the account. The insurance for the year has been paid.
- There was a reminder to renew your membership for the year. It is still \$20.
- Field Day Report: So far no parks have been found. The campground is still available. Will also look into sharing with another club.
- The Mid-Winter Madness event in Buffalo was reviewed. The club table garnered a lot of interest with many stopping by to learn more and examine the projects on display.

New Business:

- No new business.

Business meeting was adjourned.

OzarkCon

Several members of MARTS traveled by car to the OzarkCon QRP Convention in scenic Branson, Missouri, held April 4 & 5. The event is held annually by the Four State QRP Group. The Minnesotans included Craig Johnson, AA0ZZ; Larry Gaalaas, KB0R; Mert Nellis, W0UFO; John Hoaglund, NG0R; and Dave Kent, W0RU. The five guys eagerly enjoyed the spring season which was evident all around.

OzarkCon takes place at the Stone Castle Hotel and Conference Center. A few years ago the event was in Joplin, Missouri. After checking in, we saw many familiar faces including Terry, WA0ITP, who helps keep things flowing smoothly. The popular Vendor Fair and Swap Meet gets going as folks are arriving Friday afternoon and evening. Adding to the activities is the Dummy Load QSO party featuring special event

station K0N. Many QRPs (including Larry and Mert) set up their rigs in their hotel room for low power fun.

The big event the first night is the Banquet Dinner and after dinner speaker. For those ready to heat up their soldering irons, there are two Hands-on Kit Building sessions. Featured this year was the "Ozark Patrol" regenerative receiver. There is also the Wacky Key Contest. Rounding out the evening is Music for the QRPer, an informal gathering of bluegrass, country and western players and singers.

Saturday morning starts with a buffet breakfast. Six talks are given throughout the day. This year Craig, AA0ZZ, presented "Making of the EZkeyer". Other topics were about hamming in Iraq, operating as QRP DX from Caribbean Islands, understanding mixers, scalar network analyzers and portable operating. Many prizes were given away, including an Elecraft K2 kit.

The Minnesota group wrapped up Saturday with a nice dinner at Montana Mike's and a visit to the IMAX theater for a movie about great white sharks. Sunday it was back to the North Pole, I mean Minnesota.

For more information about OzarkCon and the Four State QRP Group, see <http://www.4sqrp.com/index.php>

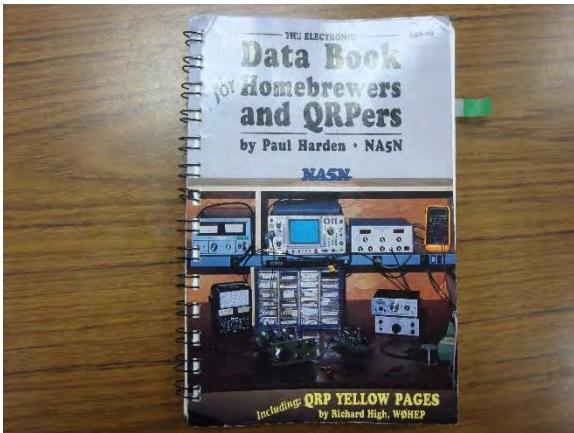
Submitted by Dave W0RU

Show & Tell:

Bede Willenbring, WA0QNV, brought in a mechanical box which he demonstrated for us.



Les Bearl, N0PPF, brought in a headphone amplifier/distribution amp he constructed a while back. It provides outputs for four headphones. Les also brought in a data book he has found quite useful and a 16 VDC/7A power supply. Les has a number of these power supplies and suggested they might be useful for a club project.



John Krawczck, KJ0P, showed us the SMA connector he used to construct an interface for his HT. He also showed us how he soldered two PL259s back to back.



John Faughn, KD0CAC, brought in an article about *tin whiskers* and how to prevent them.



Adam Bjorklund, KC0OUZ, brought in a Raspberry Pi and a D Star board he had fabricated to work with it.



Paul Bushouse, N0TYE, brought in a number of multi conductor cables which he made available to those that could use them.



Leon Dill, W0COE, brought in coupons to Harbor Freight for a free DVM.



April Presentation

Tom Kent, WM0SS, spoke on the subject of Microcomputers and Amateur Radio. Tom described different methods by which a DSP radio can be produced. He gave the example of the Flex 1500 and Soft Rock and explained the difference between them. Tom then went on to discuss XMOS and the development boards available for them. The two described were the XK-1A and XS-12T. Tom then went on to discuss the Python programming language and the fact that it is open source with free tools and well suited for this type of experimentation.

Great presentation!!



Respectfully submitted,

Steve, NW0C

Club Officers:

President: Chuck Stroud/KA8HDE
Vice Pres: Larry Gaalaas/KB0R
Secretary: Steve Ulrich/NW0C
Treasurer: Paul Bushouse/N0TYE
At Large: Tom Kent/WM0SS

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